



## Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, Inc.

January 13, 2014

The Honorable Bob Menendez  
U.S. Senate  
528 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
U.S. Senate  
131 Russell Senate Office Building

Dear Senators Menendez and Isakson:

On behalf of the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America (Big "I") and our more than quarter of a million members across the country, I am writing to express our support for S. 1846, the "Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2013."

S. 1846, introduced by Senators Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Johnny Isakson (R-GA), would delay implementation of the bought/sold provision from Sec. 205 and the entirety of Sec. 207 of the Biggert-Waters Act until after FEMA conducts the "affordability study" required by the Biggert-Waters Act. The "Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act" would then install a procedure for FEMA to issue draft regulations, with affordability in mind, before proceeding with implementation of these two provisions. S. 1846 would potentially mitigate some of the harmful effects of Biggert-Waters without undoing the numerous positive provisions within the law.

The Big "I" strongly supported the passage the Biggert-Waters Act, as it was essential to ensure the long-term stability of the NFIP. However, the Big "I" now recommends that Congress go back and make minor modifications to both Section 205 (bought/sold) and Section 207 of the legislation to ensure that, while the efficacy of the Biggert-Waters Act is protected, the law works for both individual policyholders and the U.S. economy at large. Therefore the Big "I" supports S. 1846, or any other reasonable proposal that would address some of the unintended effects of Biggert-Waters, and we urge Congress to find agreement soon on legislation that would accomplish this important goal.

We look forward to continuing to work with you as this bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Symington, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles E. Symington, Jr.  
SVP, External &  
Government Affairs